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Poems & memories

Verle McFarland Shanks

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Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

Died 2009
@ 101

Feb. 2003

The Old Rocking Chair

Here I am, sitting in a chair
Rocking, Rocking,
But going no where
I read a little
Snooze a little too,
But all in all
It keeps me from feeling blue,
Got a good friend,
We take a little walk,
Come back home,
And have a little talk,
Not a bad place
When you are old
Especially when we are
Out of the cold.
Well, it's time for another rock
Maybe someone come in
And can have another talk.

Verle Shanks

Feb. 22, 2003

I live here in Southgate,
Coming into spring.
Soon it will be
Leaves on the trees
And hear the birdies sing.
Many of us are weary
Of all the snow and ice,
So when the green grass
Comes again
I'm sure it will be very nice.

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

Feb. 16, 2003

Sun bright and shining
Sunday it is----
Hope the snow be leaving
Maybe in a whiz---
Maybe we have floods
Maybe more rain;
Whatever the good Lord gives us
--Try not to complain.

Verle Shanks

Feb 19, 2003

Once upon a time,
A long time ago
We had a little ice
But lots and lots of snow.
My folks were moving
To a new home.
Mother driving a cutter (sleigh)
All in fancy style.
The horse a prancy Morgan
Ran and upset the sleigh..
Scatter groceries and baby
All along the way.
A neighbor caught the spirited horse
Another picked up groceries
And righted up the sleigh.
Mother said, "There is a baby,
Somewhere in the snow."
Finally they found me,
And on the way we go.

Verle Shanks

Feb. 17, 2003

Woke up this morn,
Half past four
Heard knocking on the door;
Also the monitor was ringing;
Forgot to press it the nite before.
Sun shining here at noon,
Get ready for pot luck supper
Pretty soon!

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

Mar. 3 2003

Memories:

Many, many years ago
A one room school I see,
A teacher with all
The grades, did we.
One day in early fall,
With windows open wide,
A pigeon flying low,
Decides to come inside.
Twice around she flew,
Until she lands on the
Shoulders of a boy in row two.
"Books aside," the teacher said,
"We'll have bird study
Now instead!"

Verle Shanks

Mar. 6, 2003

March Weather

Maybe rain---Maybe snow
Maybe both---I don't know.
That's the way it usually works
Makes it hard to get to work.
Oh well now, never lasts long
Soon it will be a bird's song.

Verle Shanks

Mar.. 22, 2003

Soon, coming into spring,
Up and listen to birdies sing.
See that sun coming over the hill
Now, will sit by my window sill,
Reading, crocheting or maybe news,
Nice to be whatever I choose.

Verle Shanks

Mar. 26, 2003

Time about coming into noon,
Meals on wheels be here soon.

Feeling kind a lazy, not just right,
So go to the corner, work up an appetite.

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

March 31, 2003

Up this morn---age 95
Pinch myself—see if I'm alive.
You wouldn't believe
The pills I take.
Enuf to give me a tummy ache.
Guess Dr. Vogelsang
Knows his stuff,
Now I am ready
For him to call enuff!! Verle Shanks

April 6, 2003 Sunday

Early spring snow-storm
Coming in at noon.
Keep this up—need shovels
Pretty soon.
Well, well, it's quit for awhile.
Look out —it's backing up
To give us a pile! Verle Shanks

April 10, 2003

Little Robin Red Breast
I think you made a mistake.
Wet weather on your feathers
Is really hard to take.
Soon Ole' Sol be beaming
Snow storm be leaving,
And songs you'll make. Verle Shanks

April 21, 2003

Here I am, at ninety-five,
Pinch me-See if I'm alive.
Leaves are coming on the trees.
Soon there'll be some honey bees.
Listen, hear the birdies sing
Wake up, wake up-now!
We know it's spring. Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

April 29, 2003 Tues.

Here I am—feeling fine.
Ready to celebrate Mother's Day Time. (early)
Carol coming- maybe after noon.
Make our plans for May 4.
For then I have community room. Verle Shanks

May 2, 2003 Fri

Here it is, lovely May morn.
Been a-while since I was born.
Live in Southgate #229
Time goes by—but like it fine.
Sun looks good this morning,
Creeping over the hill.
About time for coffee,
So will go down for a fill. Verle Shanks

May 20, 2003

High among those trees so green
Birds of feather-come together
For communion-so it seems. Verle Shanks

May 25, 2003 Sunday

Here my blood pressure-pretty low—
Looks like Verle should be on the go.
Instead she lies on the bed
With a tingling in her head.
Thinks Thelma an apple a Day
Keeps the Dr. away.
This new medicine all too strong,
He gives, keeps us dizzy all along. Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

June 11, 2003

An "Oldie " Prayer

Sakes alive, I'm 95
Can't believe I'm still alive.
Turn around, upon my feet.
Find that I can barely creep.
Look over at the window sill,
See my walker there still
Time for me to get up and go,
Fast at first, better slow.
Take my walk out in the halls,
Say a prayer—no more falls!

Verle Shanks

June 12, 2003

Well! Well!
Get up this morn
And sit a spell.
Don't do much about my biz,
Guess I have Grandpa's rheumatiz.
Take my trusty walker
And walk in the hall.
Pray to the Lord "I don't fall"
So I hear the word loud & clear
"You're getting old , my dear!"

Verle Shanks

July 6, 2003

Tis a breezy and sunny day,
Our two daughters' are now on their way
To the three Mothers—
Will really make their Day.
Bring food, froze, fresh and more.
We don't cook much anymore.
Flowers too, each a bouquet,
From their gardens- all the way.
Each morn, I get up—say a prayer.
For sons and daughters everywhere.

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

September 13, 2003

"Hello Central—Give me Heaven
For I know my mommie's there.
She will be there – with the angel
As they climb the golden stair
Tell her that I miss her too,
Daddy's sad and feeling blue."

Author unknown, copied from memory

November 9, 2003

The Red Roller Walker

My red roller walker,
You see over there;
Can just about take me
Everywhere.
Go up to the west end and back,
Get tired and set down for a snack.
One thing sure, can't be beat,
Always sure—have a seat.
Go into my kitchen
Most any time
Need something there
Can turn on a dime.
My age—my knees
Won't let me go,
But with my trusty walker,
Can be either fast or slow.

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

Thanksgiving 2003

We come to this Thanksgiving
Am sure will be a treat,
We all love food and love to eat.
So lest we do forget to pray
That the Good Lord has helped us
Every step of the way.
Many relatives, many friends
From far and near
Are together again
For another year.

Verle Shanks

Winter Storm Feb 15, 2003

Got up this morn,
Window facing east;
What I saw
Not fit for man or beast.
Ice and snow all on cars galore!
So back to bed I go
To snooze some more.

Verle Shanks

Down On The Farm

Up at 5:30—Hear the alarm
Ready for chores—out to the barn,
Milk the cows—feed the cats
Too lazy now-to hunt for rats.

Down on the farm,
Separate milk from cream,
Washing separator—not a dream.
Get breakfast ready, too.
Get kids ready for school.

Down on the farm,
Little kittens—puppies and lambs.

Verle Shanks

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

June 23, 2004

The Bird's Nest

A perky little blackbird
Came to my window sill
A white petunia, nodding ,
Said "What?" between your lull
Tis a straw for a nest
You'll see between the trees
And soon you'll see some little birds,
One and two and three.

July 23, 2004

Memories, memories,
Well how will you know?
Sitting in my rocking chair,
Going no where.
My, where time does go!

Bumble Bee

I,m going to let the Bumble Bee be
He seems to like to bother me.
I don't mean him any harm
Tho he left a welt on my arm.
So I'm going to let the Bumble Bee be ~be.

July 4, 2004

Tis the 4th of July
A parade you'll see
Many reunions of High School of thee.
Mine is Class of 1925;
Can't believe a few still alive.
My daughter's reunion "54"
That was 50 years—no more.

Poems & Memories

By Verle Shanks

Mar. 22, 2005

First Day of Spring

Well, now, it's first day of spring--
Won't be long, the birdies will sing.
The buds on the trees
Will soon be leaves.
The days will be long
Bad weather be gone.!!